

Daughter  
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Akron  
e grandest  
Birthday  
Party it's  
ever had!

1825-1975

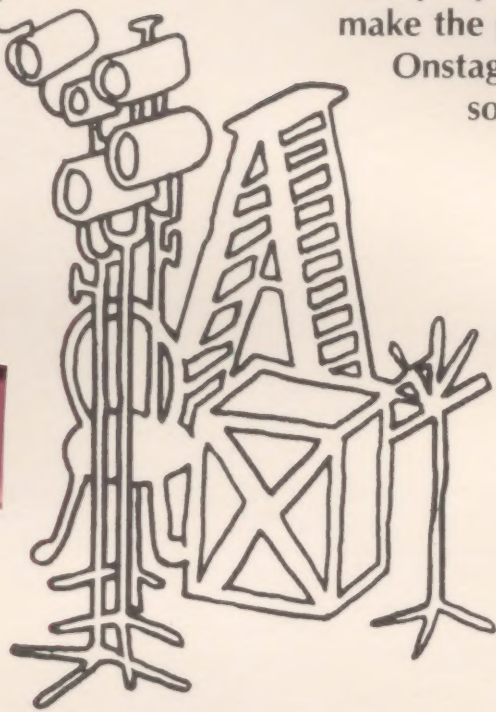
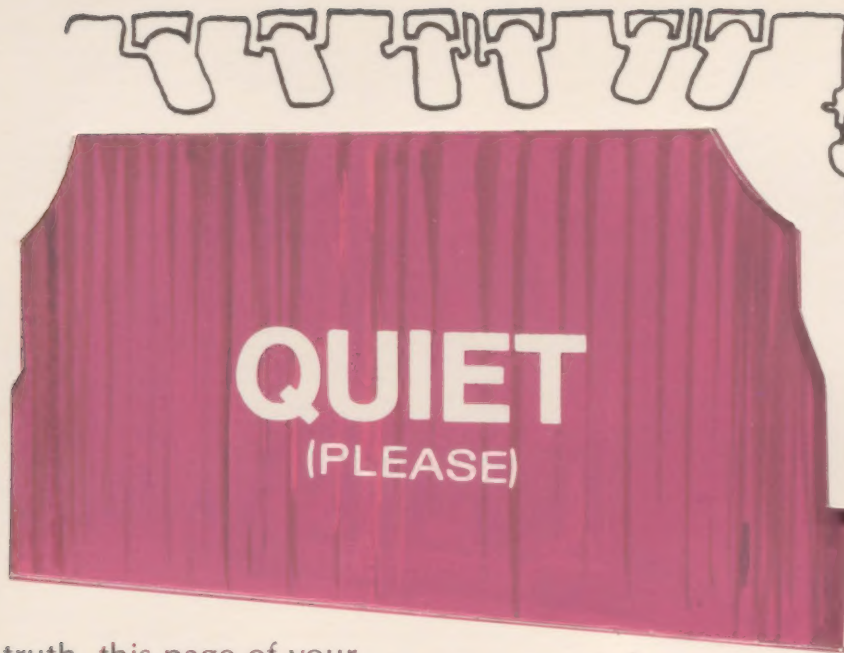


AKRON  
Sesquicentennial  
1825-1975



## Backstage...

That's where you find  
the people who  
make the people  
Onstage look  
so good.



In truth, this page of your Sesquicentennial Brochure is the "backstage" of the Parade, the Community Exposition, the Olympics, Family Day At Blossom Center, Canal Boat Model Building Contest, and of some happenings that received little or no publicity.

The names of the people who gave a great deal of their time to provide the entertainment and fun for many, many people attending the above events are not listed in any particular order, nor are they listed with a "Mr." or "Mrs." or, "Ms." . . . people working together have no time for saying a person's full name and title.

The Program for the stage presentation you are seeing tonight has its own "backstage" page . . . there you will find names of the people who helped Bob Belfance and Dick Shippy bring forth "Simon Who" for your enjoyment.

Bessie Romano  
Marilyn Schwaberow  
Jane Henderson  
Helen Henderson  
June Coble  
Bonnie Bissett  
Ev Yoho  
Jan Kraft  
Chris Cavanaugh  
Pat Schwarber

Toni Cologie  
Laura Keenan  
Jill Sutto  
Patti Hedden  
Cathy Silcox  
Barbara Roberts  
Barb Hawkins  
Cindy Wetzell  
Judy Bastian  
Fay Haas  
Beth Hawkins  
Zella Stemple  
Linda Miller  
Mary Jane Galinsky  
Betty Comstock  
Martha Bray  
Karen Jesse

Sue Kitska  
Pat Zeigler  
Millie Graef  
Candy McConnell  
Emory Smith, Sr.  
Shirley Foster  
Gus Foster  
Mary Penix  
Gene Penix  
Mickey Threath  
Chick Madden  
Emory Smith, Jr.  
Irene West  
Robbie Stillman  
Mary Jane Heyburn  
Winnie Brown  
Verda Kaser

Joyce Lagios  
John Heinnickel  
Ralph Yehnert  
Dave Snodgrass  
Gladys Johnson  
Dorothy Jackson  
Mary Lou Ciborek  
Rube Faloon  
Betty Floberg  
Dennis Haas  
Frank Meadows  
Bob Anderson  
Major Robert Prease  
Ray Wells  
Carl Pennig  
Dale Culbertson  
Clint Norton



— more "backstage" people on page 15.

The art work and layout of this collectible Akron Sesquicentennial Brochure was donated by STANDIFORD/CIBOREK DESIGN STUDIO, typesetting by ACE TYPESETTING CO.

Photographs of Parade and Fireworks courtesy of Lew Henderson; photos of Expo taken by Harry Schwab. We are deeply in debt to these men for without their photos this brochure would not be in your hands.





Akron as seen from the blimp "Mayflower" on July 4, 1975.

## AKRON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This colorful brochure is presented to you by Akron's Sesquicentennial Committee, the composition and printing made possible through a gift from the Beacon Journal Charity Fund.

The brochure preserves moments of activity during the July Fourth Festivities celebrating Akron's 150th Birthday . . . 1825-1975. You will see many of the floats, bands, and marching units making up the Parade; there are excellent photos of the great crowds attending the Community Exposition; and several exciting reminders of the Fireworks viewed by hundreds of thousands of people on the night of July 4.

There are so many outstanding photos contained within these pages that it is quite possible you may be able to point out a loved one, a family group, even yourself.

We believe most every family in the Akron area has the series of "Sesquicentennial Supplements" published by the Akron Beacon Journal prior to July 4, 1975. The articles by the

Beacon Journal editorial staff and the old photos gathered from many sources made the Sesqui Supplements a truly valuable collector's package.

Years from now this brochure will be viewed by folks who are curious about how Akron and its people celebrated the City's 150th birthday. We hope your copy will be saved for just such a purpose.

Now, at the closing of Akron's Sesquicentennial Year, the final commemorative event is the "Birthday Party" being held at Thomas Hall, December 5, 6, and 7, of 1975. Simon Perkins, Esq. is presenting a musical satire titled; Simon Who? The Program for the performance you are attending is contained within a separate folder.

Enjoy the show . . . and Thank You a million times over for helping us make 1975, Akron's 150th birthday, a year to remember for a long, long time.

**AKRON SESQUICENTENNIAL  
COMMITTEE**







Simon Perkins, Esq. (really Wright Bronson, Jr.) was caught off guard in this photo. His reflective face was not the face he presented to thousands of Akron's people. Wherever and whenever a Sesqui event was launched, "Simon Perkins" was there full of fun and laughs. Simon was the thread that wove the celebrations of 1975 into a grand party on the City's 150th birthday.

917.7136  
AK 7d

Our Flag . . . without it a parade would not be a Parade.







"Akron's finest" . . . an impressive spearhead to the July Fourth Parade. The police officers seem to be saying: "Wait and see the great floats and bands and marching groups coming up next."



Akron Beacon Journal Float . . . Featuring Akron's Marc Moon, AWS, well known water color artist; commissioned by the Beacon to paint "Old Sycamore" for the Sesquicentennial. The Old Tree guards the sixth hole at Valley View Golf Course. Legend has it, this tree was bent by the Indians to point the Way to The Portage Path.





The Firestone Float was covered with flowers flown to Akron from California and no Rose Parade float ever received more loving care.

General Tire's "Canal Boat" was drawn by a team of mules (we had other photos showing the mules but only half of the float) . . . and it tells the fact that if it had not been for the Ohio Canal and the boats that plied their way up and down its length, there would not have been an Akron, Ohio.







Dr. Goodrich was the man who introduced Akron to the Rubber Industry . . . the smaller float in the above photo is a miniature reproduction of Dr. Goodrich's first factory.

Goodyear had its blimp "Mayflower" in the sky over Akron while on the ground, as a float in the Big Parade, a Navy "airship" was emerging from a flower-covered Goodyear "hanger".







The Sesquicentennial Parade brought these folks to downtown Akron the morning of July Fourth. You are looking east, along Center Street with Polsky's on your right and The Book Store on your left.

... this photo of the Reviewing Stand caught Ed Davis, Council President, intently watching a parade unit; Jerry Healey making an announcement; Chick Madden talking with "Simon," and Dr. Guzzetta, President of the University of Akron.







Akron would not be Akron without O'Neil's and Polsky's . . . two outstanding department stores founded by strong-willed men whose names the stores proudly carry. These magnificent floats mirror their pride.





An unusual photo of the blimp, "Mayflower" as it hovered over Downtown Akron on the morning of July Fourth.

Wanna try it? The "Uniques" put on a spectacular show for the viewers along the entire Parade route.







The AL KAF FOOT PATROL, directed by Joe Bray, received resounding applause for their non-stop precision marching.

People, people, people . . . looking south on Main Street, waiting for the next unit to come into view.







Bertha Roberts directed the Al Kaf Isserettes who brought cheers and whistles from the jam-packed crowds lining the mile-long parade route.

Old Stone School . . . a landmark located on S. Broadway which offers a glimpse of school during Akron's early days.







Old Glory . . . a tremendous American Flag that took part in the Centennial Parade of 1925. It is now in safekeeping, waiting for the Akron Bicentennial Parade in 2025 . . . gosh, that seems so far off.

The All-American Soap Box Derby . . . an annual event of National stature which has been enjoyed by families from all over the country.







**"TALK IS CHEAP  
...IT TAKES MONEY TO  
BUY WHISKEY!"**

The men who dug the wide ditch that became the Ohio Canal and established Akron as a busy community had little time or breath for the niceties of speech — they talked straight out. And that is what the Sesqui Committee is doing here, because if it were not for the financial support provided by the Akron Community Trust, Akron City Council, O'Neil's, Beacon Journal Charity Fund, area financial institutions and so many others, there would not have been any Sesqui Committee-sponsored events during 1975.

The July 4th parade, the Expo, the Olympics, the Big Birthday Party at Thomas Hall . . . all of these . . . were made possible because of the support from these civic-minded institutions. No way around it, it does take money to have a parade, provide great fireworks, and produce all the other Sesqui events.

Thousands of people have helped, too, by buying Sesqui medallions and plates, Simon Perkins' T-Shirts and statues, since the proceeds covered part of the cost of the Sesqui events.

To all who helped make 1975 the best year in Akron's history, we say "Thank You!"

*John E. Kaiser*  
Executive Director







## *Backstage...*

is where you find the people who made the Onstage people look so good.

Phyllis Schumecher-  
Jay Baxter  
Ronald Croysdale  
Virginia Stanson  
Marge Ginaven  
Roseanne Bowman  
Charlie Booth  
Philip Manley  
Billy Threatt  
Finley Bramlett  
Carol Sibila  
Della Hairston  
Irene Thomsen  
Dick Heidman  
Don Hibbard  
Walt Scott

Dot Brandstetter  
Pat Pracht  
Ed Dunn  
Roland Paolucci  
Jack Carlton  
Captain Clyde Longacre  
Dave Cox and his Militia Men  
Dick Huth  
Ben Ware  
Rick Reinert  
Sis Bronson  
Joe Castiglione  
Chief Carl Best  
Herm Post  
Harry Whiddon  
Dr. John Morley

Dave Zimmer  
Rollie Hoover  
Paul Orr  
Neil Johnson  
Dave Smith  
Dave Fielder

Don Spencer  
Bruce Wert  
Bill Herrfeldt  
Jerome Joondeph  
Louis Myers  
Bill Worrell  
C.C. Gibson  
Norma Pickard  
Cantor Gertz

Bill Threatt, chairman of the Community Exposition, and Wright Bronson, Jr., the "Simon Perkins," that led the Parade.

Bill Ruhlin and his helicopter made possible "Simon Perkins" many school visits







The Clydesdale Horses . . . a rare sight for Today's youngsters . . . and for a lot of grown-ups, too. This magnificent team provides parade-watchers one of their greatest thrills.

Sharing an anniversary year with Akron, Pittsburgh Plate Glass, located in our good neighbor city of Barberton, entered a float dramatizing 75 years of service.







Police Chief Harry Whiddon and Fire Chief Carl Best had good reason to smile, to be pleased with the July Fourth Celebration. Police Captain Clyde Longacre made the statement appearing as a heading to the brief article just below this photo caption.

## **“You’ve Got To Do This Again... Akron Got It Altogether LIKE NEVER BEFORE.”**

Nineteen Hundred Seventy Five . . . a never to be forgotten year when several hundred thousand Akron people visited the Community Exposition on July 4th, saw and felt the fireworks that night . . . all in recognition of the City’s 150th birthday.

Three full days of entertainment, of celebration and fun — a time in history when all Akronites had a common identity . . . a sort of brotherhood gathered to celebrate a milestone in their city’s history. It was beautiful to watch . . . a proud moment not soon to be forgotten.

1975 will be remembered not only as Akron’s Sesquicentennial year but as a time when its people celebrated together.







The Community Exposition proved to be an exciting and interesting place to visit July 3-4-5 of 1975 . . . thousands and thousands of people made the Expo a Holiday m-u-s-t. When the idea for a Community Expo was first proposed to Akron civic groups, business establishments, churches, schools, and so on, the reception was not very heart-warming. However, it did catch on and as July 4th drew near, it looked as though there would not be room enough on the Innerbelt to accommodate all of the exhibits.

There will be a Bicentennial Expo in 1976, July 2-3-4, and it promises to be bigger and even more exciting than Akron's first Expo in 1975.









Abnaki Indian Dance Team - Explorer Post 2041.



Croatian Kolo Dancers.



German Family Society - Youth Group.



Ancient Order of Hibernians - Irish Dancers.



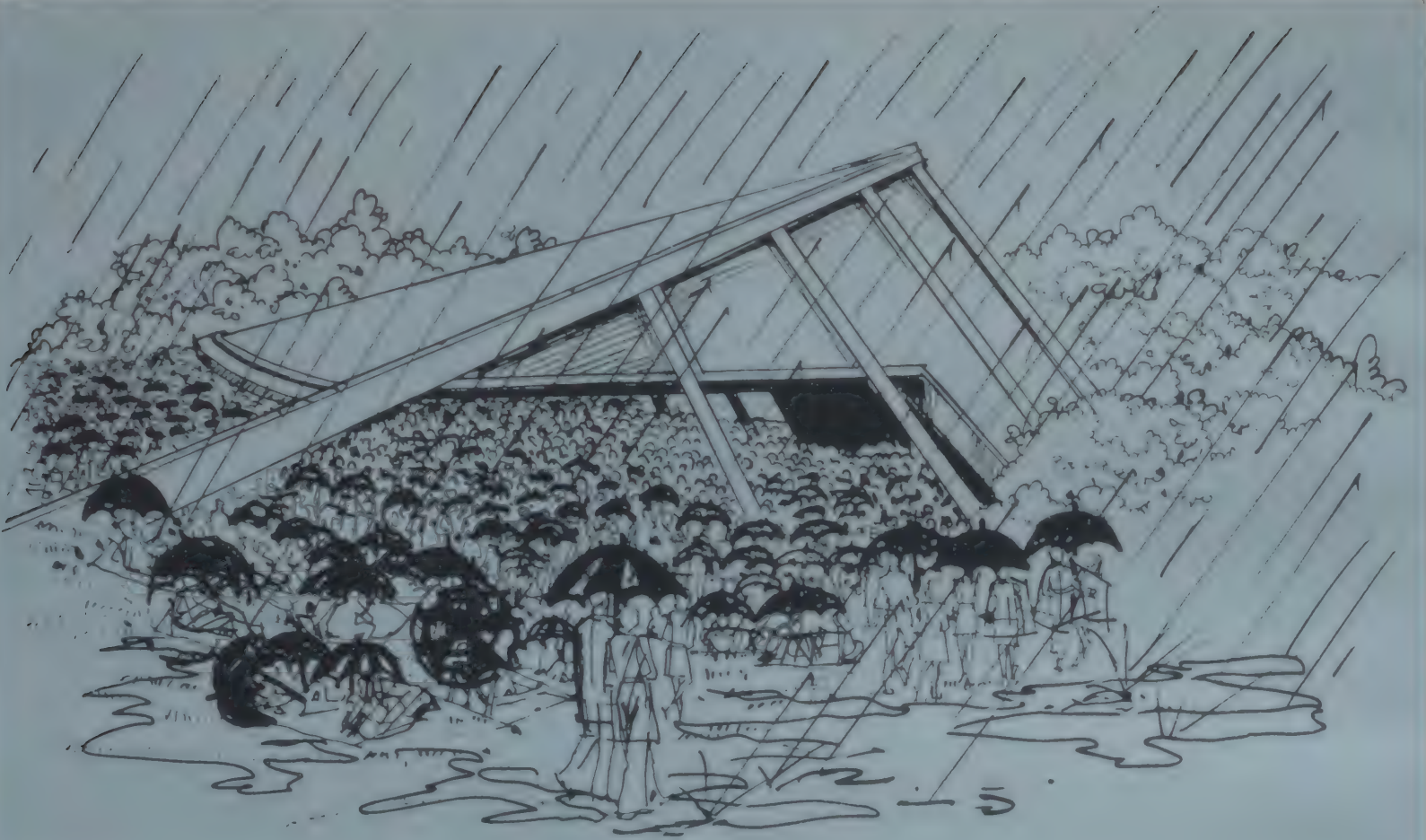
Hungarian-American Teenage Club.

There were three performing stages spaced through the Community Expo . . . and the many groups that used them provided excellent entertainment for Expo visitors. Apologies are offered here for not having photos of every group that performed . . . the pics shown, however, are a salute to all of the performers and a sincere expression of gratitude for their wonderful efforts as a contribution in recognition of Akron's 150th Birthday.









## FAMILY DAY AT BLOSSOM MUSIC CENTER...

The Sesqui Committee had planned a great event for the last Sunday of the Summer of 1975, August 31, but the rain that had been coming down all of the previous week came down harder on Sunday. About three thousand brave souls, however, were thrilled with the music and songs provided by the Akron Symphony Orchestra and 300-voice chorus presenting a program celebrating Akron's 150th Birthday.

The Akron and Summit County Bicentennial Committee are planning on presenting a similar program on a sunny Sunday in the late summer of 1976.





# JUNIOR OLYMPICS



Akron's Sesquicentennial Olympics was held on Jackson Field July 3, 1975, with Ray Wells, chairman of the event.

First place winners received an Akron Sesquicentennial Medallion .

Gail Blackwell  
Cheryl Harless  
Dawn Heideman  
Tracie Hardy  
Deresia Hannah  
Bill Holler  
Gavin Hume  
Thomas Misbrener  
Garland McVay  
Rodney Neal  
Berwin Davis  
Christine Nixon  
Tracey Sibley

Scott Conner  
John Hunt  
Reggie Wilkson  
Dennis Fitzgerald  
Kenneth Eaton  
Roberta Ritchie  
Martha Ostroski  
Shandre Delaney  
Theresa Smith  
Debbie Thorton  
Stacy Taylor  
Dave Stiver  
John Anich

Lora Pianelli  
Peggy Dangel  
Valerie Adams  
Todd Sutton  
Ray Singletary  
Tom Buschko  
Mike Fenwick  
Frank Nicholson  
William Habeck  
Shawn Ritchie  
Kevin Barclay  
Greg Beasley  
Mike Barnett

Mary Bradley  
Mary Stott  
Michele Carter  
Kevin McVay  
Bob Ornosky  
Adrian Robinson  
Tom Krznarich  
Brad Johnston  
Karen Hardt  
Sharon Johnson  
Teresa St. George  
Cathy Gless  
Debbie Testa

Jeff Walker  
Mark Burden  
Mike Lockhart  
Joseph DiDonato  
Bruce Davis  
Tom McIntyre  
Roland Green  
Rosemarie Ritchie  
Theresa Dangel  
Judy Kithcart  
Debbie James  
Ethel Scott  
Renee Idley

The "Olympic Runner" was Cletus Griffin, three-time winner, of The All-American Cross Country championship.





Akron's high school marching bands were cheered on by the thousands of people who lined the parade route from Exchange to Main . . . the precision displayed by the Garfield High Band was typical of all school marching units. The bands gave the parade-watchers a preview of the men and women of Akron when the City celebrates its Bicentennial Year.





Akron's 150th Birthday Cake . . . carried on a long-time-ago delivery wagon of the Fred W. Albrecht Grocery Company. Albrecht Grocery began serving Akron people in 1891; Fred I. Albrecht, president of Akron Sesquicentennial, Inc., is the grandson of the founder.

Monica Albrecht is the young lady in the foreground painting the faces of youngsters in all sorts of clown-like patterns. She sets up her little shop outside the Akron Art Institute tent at the Expo. Assisting her are Leslie Smith, back row left, and Lydia Voth.







The Expo's Main Entrance . . . located at the end of Quaker Street, posed a problem: a slight grade, downhill, to the Innerbelt area. The City's service and engineering people solved the problem by bringing the "Bailey Bridge" out of storage. This bridge was first used to span the Innerbelt, providing a footwalk across the construction area for folks living on the west side of the Innerbelt.

The "up" and "down" entrance walkways were busy throughout the three days of the Expo.





This excellent photo which shows the beginning of the parade also illustrates the magnitude and orderliness of the crowd.



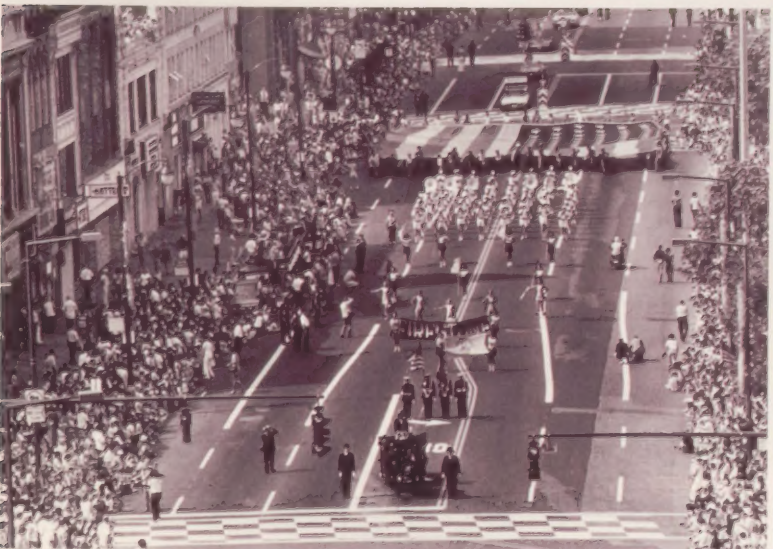
Simon Perkins might say: "This artist's sketch of me astride a mule is a little out of character for me . . . but Rick Reinert (the artist) took other liberties with my appearance so I won't fuss about this one.

"You'll see that I'm pointing at some scenes of Akron taken during our Big Birthday Celebration on July Fourth . . . take a good look . . . see all those people? . . . isn't it amazing how folks enjoy themselves when you give them something to celebrate?

"1975 is a Great Year for Akron, believe you me!"











**FIREWORKS!** . . . fireworks that made the windows rattle, made people scrunch their shoulders against the explosive sounds. You'll hear and see Fireworks again on the night of July 3, 1976.



**CANNON FIRE!** "Golly neds". The first round spooked the Clydesdale horses even though they were half-a-mile away, walking into their vans. Dave Cox and his Militia Men contributed this bit of 1776 realism.





# AKRON

## Sesquicentennial

1825-1975



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**Vincent H. Johnson**  
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Akron City Council Resolution 696, December 11, 1973: Akron Sesquicentennial, Inc. will serve as the official agency of the City of Akron and of the community in celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the City of Akron and the Bicentennial of the United States of America and to unite in support thereof the community and civic organizations in this purpose.

**John E. Kaiser**  
Executive Director

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Summit County Historical  
Society

### Akronites . . .

Many people have expressed their pride that Akron people celebrate with so much warmth and enthusiasm the 150th birthday of our town. Here are a few quotes from what has been said:

"Throughout a long and glorious weekend, Akron's downtown was a teeming, joyous, fun-filled area, one of the best birthday parties ever. King-sized credit should be dished out to the small army that made it happen. Plus a gold star for the weatherman. (B.J. Editorial 7/8/75)

"These events ignited a civic pride to an extent not often experienced in our community ... which will be long remembered by both spectators and participants." (City Council as a whole)

"Frankly, I don't think things could have gone more smoothly. Everyone I talked to spoke in superlatives about the parade, the expo, the fireworks, and the general relaxed, happy atmosphere." (Mayor John S. Ballard)

"The Akron Sesquicentennial was a huge success--not only super-sized crowds, but also super-behaved crowds. Akron can be justly proud of this event." (C. J. Pennig, Chairman, Akron Sesqui Transportation and Parking Committee)

The Sesquicentennial Committee thanks those who have helped to celebrate and commemorate 1975 as Akron's Sesquicentennial Year. You made it possible and you did a splendid job.

Thanks.

*Fred I. Albrecht*

Fred I. Albrecht  
President

November 26, 1975

Akron Sesquicentennial

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The Edwin J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall, a superb structure, is located on the campus of Akron University. Inside, three continuous lobbies flank the auditorium and stage house, and they can accommodate all 3,000 occupants of the hall at one time. The focus of this splendid space is the main lobby that rises to the full height of the 90-foot wall. Here you see 27 massive chrome-plated steel cylinders weighing a total of 47 tons which are the counterweight used to raise and lower

the 44-ton ceiling. This facility permits serving smaller audiences, say of 2,400 or 900 people; a full house has all of the 3,000 seats occupied.

"Thomas Hall" has given Akron a degree of sophistication it did not have before and its usefulness to the City is limited only by the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Akron's people.

*AKRON Sesquicentennial*

